(b) what is the estimate of total amount involved;

(c) whether any dead line has been fixed for the payment of compensation and if so, what is the date;

(d) what is the total ad-hoc payment made so far to the victims of the accident; and

(e) whether at the time of payment of compensation Government propose to consider the payment of *ad hoc* amount as an *ipso facto* proof of the mishap suffered by the passengers of the ill-fated train in order to arrive at an expeditious decision of payment of compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) 165 applications, including 43 from dependants of passengers killed, have been received by the Railway so far. Under Indian Railways Act, Rs. 1 lakh is payable as compensation for each case of death and Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh to each injured person.

(c) A retired judge of the Allahabad High Court has been appointed as the *Ad hoc* Claims Commissioner to decide all the claims for compensation arising out of this accident at the earliest possible.

(d) *Ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 4,36,250/ has been made to the injured and to the next of kin of the deceased.

(e) No Sir. The claims for compensation are decided by the *Ad hoc* Claims Commissioner under the provisions of Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1950.

Nepal's Allegation Against India for Delay in Indo-Nepal Talks

1790. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has blamed India for delaying talks on trade etc Despite their (Nepal's) efforts to hold a dialogue at the Foreign Ministers level as reported in the National Herald dated the 14th July, 1989; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports to this effect, including the article mentioned in this Quesiton.

The facts, however, are quite different. The Government have from the beginning sought to initiate a comprehensive dialogue with His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) on all relevant issues between the two countries. On April 19, 1989, we formally requested HMGN to provide us the full agenda; and to specify the level and venue and suggest dates for the talks. Despite repeated reminders, there was no response until May 25, 1989 when HMGN suggested a limited agenda. Subsequently, a detailed letter dated June 16, 1989 we took the initiative to propose a comprehensive agenda covering all issues of mutual concern to HMGN and sought a frank anl candid dialogue to resolve these issues. The Napalese side have proposed certain amendments to this agenda. Their suggestions are being examined. It is our hope that a comprehensive and productive dialogue can be initiated soon.

1791. [*Transferred to the 10th August, 1989*]

कला एवं संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्यों को धनराशि दिये जाने का प्रावधान

1792. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार कला एवं संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राज्यों को धनराशि दे रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान इस प्रयोजनार्थ महाराष्ट्र राज्य को कितनी धनराशि दी गई ?